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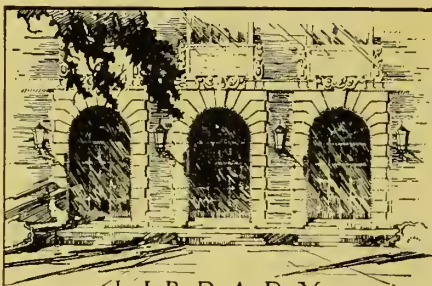
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Historical Fiction for
The Period of Napoleon I.
And the First Empire

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ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL FICTION FOR THE PERIOD OF
NAPOLEON I AND THE FIRST EMPIRE

by
NELLIE GOODWIN HEWITT

THESIS PRESENTED FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

in the
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PREFACE

Saintsbury in his *Essays in English literature* has given what he calls "the bones" of the historical novel. They are these: "Observe local colour and historical propriety, but do not become a slave to Dryasdust or Heavysterne. Intermix historic interest and the charm of well-known figures, but do not incur the danger of mere historical transcription; still more take care that the prevailing ideas of your characters, or your scene, or your action, or all three be fantastic and within your own discretion". With this skeleton for a foundation, the author who has the true historical imagination can take the dry facts of history and clothe them with flesh and blood and make them live again before our eyes. The result would no doubt be a perfect historical novel. Needless to say, however, it is a result seldom met with among the heterogeneous mass of historical fiction which has been given to the public in recent years.

The period of the rise and reign of Napoleon I in France has formed the subject of a somewhat limited number of historical novels. From these, when a choice has been possible, ten of the best have been selected and analyzed in order to bring out their historical value. It is hoped that such annotation may prove useful to the students of this period of French history and that the list itself may serve as a suggestion for supplementary reading. To facilitate reference two arrangements have been used, alphabetical for historical personages and chronological for historical events.

The analysis is based upon the following outline used by Mr. John Thomson of the Free library of Philadelphia in preparing his *Dictionary of Historical Fiction*.

Each work included in the list has one or more of the following features:

- a.- An historical personage introduced as a speaking character, as Napoleon. Madame Sans-Gêne.
- b.- An historical event categorically described, as Battle of Austerlitz. Tom Burke of "Ours".
- c.- An historical town, city or place categorically described, as Moscow. War and Peace.
- d.- Positive and tolerably minute description of the society and manners of a period, as Social life among the Russian aristocracy. War and Peace.

Leading characters, whether appearing in only a few chapters or throughout the entire work, have "pas" (for passim) written after their names. Any historical person introduced cursorily has "cur" to indicate the extent to which he appears in the work. Any person appearing in only one place has the number of the chapter given. Historical events are similarly treated.

N. G. H.

LIST OF HISTORICAL NOVELS

Author:-

Title:- Madame Sans-Gêne; an historical romance founded upon the play of Victorien Sardou.

Period:- 1792-1811.

Historical personages:-

Barras, chap.22, 24.

Beaurepaire - French commander, bk.2, chap.6, 10, 14.

Beaurepaire, Herminie de, bk.2, chap.5,7-8,14.

Bonaparte, Eliza, bk.1, chap.2-4; bk.3, chap.6.

Despréaux - dancing master, bk.3, chap.1-2.

Fouché, cur.

Hoche, Lazare, bk.2, chap.2-3.

Josephine, cur.

Lefebvre - French general, pas.

Lefebvre, Catherine - Madame Sans-Gêne, pas.

Marie-Louise of Austria, bk.3, chap.13.

Napoleon, pas.

Neipperg - Austrian officer, cur.

Savary - minister of police, bk.3, chap.13.

Historical events:-

Attack upon the palace of the Tuileries & massacre of the Swiss guard, bk.1, chap.3-4.

Siege of Verdun, bk.2, chap.5-14.

Murder of Beaurepaire, bk.2, chap.14.

Battle of Jemmappes, bk.2, chap.20.

Marriage of Napoleon & Josephine, bk.2, chap.25.

18th Brumaire - Napoleon made First consul, bk.2, chap.25.

Lefebvre made Duc de Dantzig, bk.3, chap.4-5.

Divorce of Napoleon & Josephine, bk.3, chap.7.

Town, city or place:-

France:

Marseilles.

Paris.

Verdun.

Versailles.

Prussia:

Danzig.

Switzerland:

Jemmappes.

Society & manners of the period:-

Assembly of the chief citizens at the court-house of Verdun, bk.2, chap.9-10.

Château & chapel, bk.2, chap.16-17.

Court life under the Empire, bk.3, cur.

(A)dancing lesson, bk.3, chap.1-2.

French laundress at the time of the Revolution, bk.1, cur.

Immorality of the times, cur.

Life of a cantiniere in the French army, bk.2, cur.

Popular ball in Paris 1792, bk.1, chap.1.

Social life under the Directory, bk.2, chap.24.

Critical estimate:-

"Victorien Sardou may be called the most fortunate of our

modern dramatists. He abandons all pretensions to the dignity of a moralist; he does not profess to give us lessons or to analyze human passions...He does not above all belong to the gloomy psychological school which delights in exposing the worst parts of human nature. Sardou shows(or attempts to show) us in Madame Sans-Gêne a real Napoleon, a 'Napoleon intime'".

Nation, Dec.14, 1893. v.57:445-46.

Author:- Dumas, Alexandre Davy.

Title:- Companions of Jehu. 2v.

Period:- 1799-1800.

Historical personages:-

Barras - member of the Directory, v.1, chap.23.
Bernadotte - French general, v.1, chap.21, 23.
Bonaparte, Lucien, v.1, chap.21, 22.
Bourrienne, Fauvelet de - Napoleon's secretary, cur.
Cadoudal, Georges - royalist conspirator, v.2, chap.4-7,22.
Debel - French general, v.1, chap.23.
Fouché - minister of police, cur.
Gohier - president of the Directory, v.1, chap.23, 24.
Gohier, Madame - wife of the president, v.1, chap.23.
Josephine, v.1, chap.20-24; v.2, chap.3.
Lefebvre - French general, v.1, chap.23.
Moreau - " " v.1, chap.20, 24.
Moulin - member of the Directory, v.1, chap.23, 24.
Napoleon Bonaparte - First consul, pas.
Siéyes - member of the Directory, v.1, chap.24.
Tallyrand - minister of foreign affairs, v.1, chap.20.

Historical events:-

Conspiracy of Georges Cadoudal, pas.
Return of Napoleon from Egypt, v.1, chap.1-2.
Fall of the Directory, v.1, chap.21-25.
18th Brumaire - Napoleon made First consul, v.1, chap.24.

Napoleon's change of residence from the Luxembourg to the
Tuileries, v.2, chap.17.

Interview of Georges Cadoudal & Napoleon at the Tuileries,
v.2, chap.23.

Capture, arrest, trial & execution of the four leading
companions of Jehu, v.2, cur.

The crossing of the Alps at the St.Bernard pass by the
French army, v.2, chap.24.

Battle of Marengo, v.2, chap.29.

Town, city or place:-

France:

Avignon.

Bourg.

Paris.

Brétagne:

Muzillac.

La Trinité.

Italy:

Marengo.

Society & manners of the period:-

Boar hunt, v.1, chap.13.

Cave of Cezériat, v.2, chap.12.

Church of Brou, v.1, chap.12.

Dress of young royalist nobleman, v.1, chap.26.

Duelling in France, v.1, chap.4; v.2, chap.28.

French château, v.1, chap.11.

Life in a French military school, v.1, chap.5.

Life of royalist conspirators under the Consulate, cur.

Madame Bonaparte's reception, v.1, chap.20-22.

Robbing of diligences, cur.

Royalist ball, v.1, chap.26.

Critical estimate:-

"Dumas is, as always, scrupulously accurate in the strictly historical parts of the narrative. Indeed, as he himself said, the 'Companions of Jehu...is romanticized history rather than historical romance'. The events of the 18th Brumaire and of the days immediately preceding it follow very closely the most authentic accounts, and the author has followed his customary plan of weaving into his work innumerable small details of undoubted historical truth".

Versailles edition. Intro-
ductory note.

Author:- Lever, Charles James.

Title:- Tom Burke of "Ours". 2v.

Period:- about 1800-1813.

Historical personages:-

Beauvais - royalist conspirator, v.1, cur..

Cadoudal, Georges - royalist conspirator, v.1, chap.33-37.

Josephine, cur.

Murat - French marshal, v.2, chap.48-49.

Napoleon, pas.

Savary - minister of police, cur.

St. Hilaire - French general, v.2, chap.49.

Tallyrand - minister of foreign affairs, v.1, chap.24.

Historical events:-

Conspiracy of Moreau, Pichegru & Cadoudal, v.1, cur.

Arrest & imprisonment of Cadoudal in the Temple, v.1, chap.
32, 34-35.

Death of Pichegru in the Temple, v.1, chap.35.

Trial of Cadoudal & other Chouans at the Palais de Justice,
v.1, chap.36-37.

March of the French army into Germany, v.2, chap.42-48.

Surrender of Ulm, v.2, chap.44.

Battle of Austerlitz, v.2, chap.48-49.

Armistice between Austrian & French armies, v.2, chap.52.

Battles of Jena & Auerstadt, v.2, chap.68-69.

Napoleon's entry into Berlin, v.2, chap.70.

Invasion of France by the Allies, v.2, chap.83-86.

Town, city or place:-

France:

Mayence.

Paris.

Versailles.

Germany:

Austerlitz.

Ireland:

Dublin.

Prussia:

Auerstadt.

Jena.

Society & manners of the period:-

Canteen in the French army, v.2, chap.44.

"Compagnie d'élite", v.2, chap.54.

Duelling in France, cur.

Enthusiastic devotion of the French soldiers for Napoleon,
cur.

Field hospital, v.2, chap.49.

French prison - the Temple, v.1, chap.33-35.

Garden of the Tuileries, v.1, chap.40.

Life in a French military school - the Polytechnique, v.1,
chap.21.

Life of a cantinière in the French army, v.2, cur.

Life of an Irish soldier in the French army, pas.

Life of royalist conspirators, cur.

Police espionage, cur.

Return of wounded soldiers to Paris, v.2, chap.57.

Social life in Paris under the Empire, cur.

Critical estimate:-

"With Charles Lever passes away a style of novel peculiarly his own...He is never sensational, in the sense in which that phrase has become descriptive of a class of novels in which the enormities of human nature - outrageous crimes and abominable sins - are essentials. Nor, on the other hand, is he the depicter of calm real life, extracting its interest from the discharge of daily duties and the sentiments and passions of ordinary people...He has, however, his own peculiar style, neither still life nor life in convulsions,- the life of dramatic action full of movement, incident, situation, pageant, and, if we may use the illustration, stage effect. Into this he throws the energy of a lively genius, a joyous temperament, a ready wit, a keen appreciation of character, a good deal of sagacity and a large experience of mankind".

Living age, Sept.4, 1872. v.

114:735-41.

"Tom Burke - by many accounted his best work - is especially valuable for its portrayal of the enthusiasm excited by Napoleon I and of the life of the Irish exiles in Paris".

Dictionary of National Biography.

Author:- Balzac, Honoré de.

Title:- An historical mystery.

Period:- 1803-1829.

Historical personages:-

Chargeboeuf - French nobleman, chap.11, 19.

Fouché - minister of police, cur.

Laurence, comtesse de Cinq-Cygne, pas.

Napoleon Bonaparte - First consul, chap.10, 19.

Tallyrand - minister of foreign affairs, cur.

Historical events:-

Conspiracy of royalist followers of Moreau & Pichegru, pas.

Encampment of the French army on the banks of the Saale,
chap.19.

Town, city or place:-

France:

Paris.

Troyes.

Prussia:

Saale river near Jena.

Society & manners of the period:-

Château & park of Gondreville, chap.1.

Code of Brumaire. year IV, chap.13.

Dress of fashionable young man of the period, chap.1.

Forest of Noddesme, chap.7.

Law courts & a trial in 1806, chap.17-18.

Life of young royalist conspirators, pas.

Police vigilance, cur.

Royalist home & its occupants under the Consulate, chap.5.

Critical estimate:-

"Take also, An Historical Mystery, which is not the best known of the novels of Balzac but which is, nevertheless, one of the most finished. All the documents which have been brought to light for some years on the period of the Consulate have only shown the truth of the personal recollection and the prophecy for the future which were mingled in this picture of the parties, the minds of men and the customs on the eve of the proclamation of the Empire. And in Napoleonic literature itself, I know of nothing more imperial than the audience given by the Emperor to Madame de Cinq-Cygne on the battle-field of Jena".

Brunetière.

Études critiques sur l'histoire de la littérature française
v.7, apx.p.304.

Author:- Mundt, Clara Müller (Louise Mühlbach).

Title:- Napoleon & the Queen of Prussia.

Period:- 1806-1810.

Historical personages:-

Alexander - emperor of Russia, cur.

Augustus - prince of Prussia, chap.14.

Champagny - French marshal, chap.22, 41.

Corvisart - Napoleon's physician, chap.41.

Duroc - French marshal, cur.

Francis - emperor of Austria, chap.44.

Frederick William III - king of Prussia, pas.

Hardenberg - Prussian nobleman, chap.16-18, 29.

Hatzfeld - Prussian princess, chap.12.

Lannes - French marshal, chap.26.

Lefebvre - " " chap.26.

Lombard - Prussian cabinet councillor, chap.5-6.

Louisa - queen of Prussia, pas.

Maria-Louisa - archduchess of Austria, chap.45.

Metternich - Austrian minister, chap.44.

Müller, Johannes von - Swedish historian, chap.33-34.

Napoleon, pas.

Rapp - aide-de-camp to Napoleon, chap.41.

Schill, Ferdinand von - German patriot, chap.1-3, 46-48.

Staps, Frederick - German patriot, chap.2-3, 41-42.

Stein - Prussian minister, cur.

Tallyrand- minister of foreign affairs, cur.

Historical events:-

Flight of the Royal family of Prussia from Berlin, chap.6-7

Napoleon at the tomb of Frederick the Great, chap.9.

Napoleon's entry into Berlin, chap.10.

Pardon of Prince von Hatzfeld, chap.12.

Removal of the statue of Victory from the Brandenburg
gate, chap.15.

Marshal Lefebvre made Duc de Dantzig, chap.26.

Peace of Tilsit, chap.27-30.

Interview between Napoleon & Queen Louisa at Tilsit,
chap.30.

Meeting of Napoleon & Alexander at Erfurt, chap.39.

Death of Ferdinand von Schiller, chap.48.

Attempted assassination of Napoleon at Schonbrunn, chap.51

Execution of Frederick Staps, chap.52.

Return of the Prussian royal family to Berlin, chap.53.

Death of Queen Louisa, chap.57.

Town, city or place:-

Austria:

Vienna.

Germany:

Berlin.

Prussia:

Battlefield of Auerstadt, chap.1.

Erfurt.

Memel.

Potsdam.

Stettin.

Tilsit.

Society & manners of the period:-

Attitude of the Prussian populace toward the noblemen &
officers, chap.15.

Home life of the Prussian royal family, cur.

League of virtue, cur.

Love of the Prussians for Queen Louisa, cur.

Riot of the citizens of Berlin, chap.4-5.

Critical estimate:-

Although Miss Mühlbach's novels may be considered inartistic and extravagant in treatment, nevertheless there is a liveliness of description and narration which arouses the interest and holds the attention to the end. In her Napoleon and the Queen of Prussia historical details are closely followed and an interesting picture of Prussian life at the time of Napoleon's invasion is given.

Author:- Dumas, Alexandre Davy.

Title:- The twin lieutenants.

Period:- 1809-1815.

Historical personages:-

Bertier - French marshal, cur.

Bubna - Austrian general, chap.8-9.

Cambacères - archchancellor of France, chap.2, 17.

Corvisart - Napoleon's physician, chap.10.

Davoust - French marshal, cur.

Eugène - king of Naples, chap.16.

Fouché - minister of police, chap.2.

Napoleon, pas.

Ney - French marshal, chap.13-15.

Tallyrand - minister of foreign affairs, chap.2.

Historical events:-

Battle of Eckmühl, chap.7.

Attempted assassination of Napoleon at Schonbrunn palace,
chap.9.

Interview of Count de Bubna with Napoleon, chap.9.

Arrest & execution of Frederick Staps, chap.10-11.

Burning of Moscow, chap.12.

Retreat of French army from Russia, chap.13-16.

Conspiracy of Malet, chap.17.

Departure of Napoleon for St.Helena, chap.18.

Town, city or place:-

France:

Paris.

Austria:

Donauwerth.

Vienna.

Russia:

Moscow.

Society & manners of the period:-

Attitude of the German students toward the French, cur.

League of virtue in Germany, chap.4-5, cur.

Palace of Schonbrunn, chap.9.

Critical estimate:-

"Dumas has the faculty as no other novelist has, of presenting rapid and brilliant diormas of the picturesque aspects of history, animating them with really human if not very intricately analyzed passion, and connecting them with dialogue matchless of its kind".

Fortnightly review, Oct.1,

1878, v.30:527.

Author:- Tolstoi, Lyof Nickolaivitch.

Title:- War and peace. 4v.

Period:- 1805-1820.

Historical personages:-

Alexander of Russia, cur.

Bagration - Russian general, v.1, cur.

Balashof - " " v.3, pt.1, chap.3-5.

Benigsen - " " v.3, pt.1, chap.9-11, 22.

Davoust - French marshal, v.3, pt.1, chap.5.

Kutuzof - commander-in-chief of Russian army, cur.

Murat - French marshal, v.3, pt.1, chap.4.

Napoleon, cur.

Pfuhl - Russian general, v.3, pt.1, chap.9-11.

Rostopchin - governor-general of Moscow, v.3, cur.

Speransky, Michael - Russian reformer, v.2, pt.3, chap.4-18

Historical events:-

Retreat of Russian army toward Vienna & encounter with

French army near Znaim, v.1, pt.2, chap.2-21.

Battle of Austerlitz, v.1, pt.2, chap.13-19.

Meeting of Alexander & Napoleon at Tilsit & the signing

of the treaty of peace, v.2, pt.2, chap.19-21.

Napoleon at the Nieman, v.3, pt.3, chap.2.

Meeting of the merchants & noblemen of St.Petersburg for

the purpose of raising money to carry on the war,

v.3, pt.1, chap.22-23.

Battle of Borodino, v.3, pt.3, chap.19-39.

Evacuation of Moscow by the Russian troops, v.3, pt.3,
chap.19.

Burning of Moscow, v.3, pt.3, chap.29-31.

Battle of Tarutino, v.4, pt.2, chap.6-7.

French occupation of Moscow, v.4, pt.2, chap.8-10.

Retreat of French army from Moscow, v.4, cur.

Guerilla warfare of the Russians, v.4, pt.2, cur..

Battle at Krasnoye, v.4, pt.4, chap.6-9.

Town, city or place:-

Austria:

Tilsit.

Germany:

Austerlitz.

Russia:

Borodino.

Krasnoye.

Moscow.

St.Petersburg.

Tarutino.

Society & manners of the period:-

Free masonry in Russia, v.2, pt.2, chap.1-5, cur.

Love of the Russians for Alexander, cur.

Mob & riot in the streets of Moscow, v.3, pt.3, chap.25.

Peasant life in Russia, v.3, pt.2, chap.8-14.

Preparations of a Russian noble family for the departure
from Moscow, v.3, pt.3, chap.12-17.

Release of the insane & convicts before the burning of
Moscow, v.3, pt.3, chap.24-25.

Russian army life, cur.

Russian country estate, v.2, pt.3, chap.1-6.

Russian hospital, v.2, pt.1, chap.17-18.

Russian household, v.2, pt.1, chap.1-3.

Social life among the aristocracy at St.Petersburg &
Moscow, cur.

Treatment of Russian prisoners in the French army, v.4,
pt.2, chap.12-14.

Critical estimate:-

"In War and Peace he (Tolstoi) has drawn a series of pictures of Russia, military and domestic, as it appeared during the first quarter of the present century, especially at the period when it bore up against the tremendous shock of Napoleon's invasion, and changed the course of European history...Out of a great mass of small details he carefully composes an admirable picture. Once begin to suppress details and the picture gradually fades away. We may take as instances the lifelike scene of an artillery contest early in the book, in which the busy young officer, Tushin, and the gunners who obey his orders, are brought before the reader's eye with wonderful force and clearness; and the description of Moscow teeming with life and energy when the invasion began, deserted and as though dead when the invaders looked down upon it from Sparrow Hills and Napoleon vainly waited for deputations of boyars. Still more impossible is it to give an idea of the keen insight shown by the author

in his slight but true analyses of peasant and soldier character, or in his fuller delineations of the changes wrought by time and fortune in the minds of the principal actors on his stage".

Living age, May 10, 1879. v.141:

409-20.

Author:- Alcock, Deborah.

Title:- The Czar; a tale of the time of the first Napoleon.

Period:- 1806-1825.

Historical personages:-

Alexander of Russia, cur.

Napoleon, cur.

Rostopchin - governor of Moscow, chap.18.

Historical events:-

Burning of Moscow & destruction of the Kremlin, chap.25.

French occupation of Moscow, chap.26-28.

Retreat of the French army from Russia, chap.30-34.

Invasion of France by the Allies, chap.36-37.

Death of Alexander, chap.43.

Town, city or place:-

France:

Paris.

Versailles.

Russia:

Moscow.

St.Petersburg.

Vilno.

Society & manners of the period:-

Life in the Russian army, cur.

Life of a conscript in the French army, cur.

Peasant life in Russia, cur.

Religious devotion of the Russians, cur.

Russian village, chap.1.

Critical estimate:-

In this book Miss Alcock has given a vivid picture of the life in both the Russian and French armies during Napoleon's Russian campaign. Peasant life in Russia is well described and the evacuation and burning of Moscow is realistically pictured.

Author:- Erckmann, Émile & Chatrian, Alexandre.

Title:- The conscript; a story of the French war of 1813.

Period:- 1813.

Historical personages:-

Blücher - Prussian general, chap.12.

Napoleon, cur.

Nay - French marshal, cur.

Souham - French general, cur.

Historical events:-

Encampment of the French army on the banks of the Saale,
chap.12.

Battle of Lutzen, chap.13-14.

Battle of Leipzig, chap.18-20.

Retreat of the French army from Leipzig, chap.21.

Battle of Hanau, chap.21.

Town, city or place:-

Alsace:

Phalsburg.

Weissenfels.

Germany:

Leipzig.

Lutzen.

Society & manners of the period:-

Attitude of the German citizens toward the French soldiers
chap.16.

Conscription, chap.6.

French hospital, chap.15-16.

Life of a conscript in the French army, pas.

Critical estimate:-

"The position which Erckmann and Chatrian occupy in French literature and history is unique. They worked a field which no one had worked before, and which no one has worked since with the same purpose...They deliberately set to work to use the material furnished by the First Republic and Napoleonic periods for a series of national romances. In a style at once clear and flowing and with painstaking fidelity to the truth of history they made the events of these periods live again".

G: W. Rollins. Madame Therese -

Introd. p.5.

Author:- Erckmann, Émile & Chatrian, Alexandre.

Title:- Waterloo; a sequel to the Conscript of 1813.

Period:- 1814-1815.

Historical persnages:-

Gérard - French marshal, chap.18.

Ney - " " chap.20.

Historical events:-

Return of the French émigres after restoration of Louis
VIII, chap.1-3.

Hundred days:

Battle of Ligny, chap.19.

Battle of Waterloo, chap.20-22.

Town, city or place:-

Phalsburg.

Waterloo.

Society & manners of the period:-

Attitude of the French populace toward the restoration of
Louis VIII, chap.1-9.

Effect on the French people of Napoleon's return from Elba
cur.

Life of a conscript in the French army, cur.

Love & loyalty of the French soldiers shown for Napoleon
during the Hundred days, cur.

Critical estimate:-

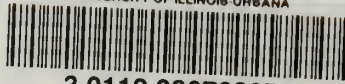
"These delightful works (of Erckmann-Chatrian) well deserve their great success. Not only is the couleur locale admirably preserved, but the very spirit of those who took part in the events, is reproduced. No more delightful and profitable relief from severe studies on the entire Revolutionary and Imperial periods can be imagined".

Andrew D. White.





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